

The Sydney Morning Herald.

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[For Notices of Births, Marriages, Deaths, &c., see page 6.]

SUMMARY.

Beiter reports that a tremendous conflict is raging at Port Arthur, and that victory is leaning to the balance.

Two thousand Japanese troops lately arrived from Port Arthur from the north.

An eye-witness gives an appalling description of the explosion of a mine field at Port Arthur recently.

He says that the ground was littered with limbs and with piles of dead, and the agonies and cries of the injured could be plainly heard.

On the Port Arthur warships on the 10th instant the Japanese were 155 officers and men killed and 223 wounded.

Calls report that eight destroyers have escaped from Port Arthur, and that given Japanese destroyers are searching for them.

Kosakoway, where the cruiser Novik took refuge and was partly sunk by the Japanese, has been bombed.

The Tao-tai of Shanghai has extended the time for the Russian cruise to Asia, and the destroyers Grozovoy and Novik.

Admiral Yates (Retired) (United States) has advised that the Japanese shall not interfere with the two vessels in territorial waters.

He has offered to escort them outside the harbour for a distance of three miles.

The Tao-tai tried to induce the Consuls at Shanghai to adopt collective measures to maintain the neutrality of the port.

The Japanese Consul strongly protested against collective consular action affecting the rights of belligerents.

A meeting of the Tao-tai endorsed the protest against collective action.

In the instance of the British Consul-General, the whole matter was referred to the Chinese Government at Peking.

The Japanese destroyer which had entered Shanghai has left the port.

The steamer Flandria has left Antwerp for the Far East.

A Russian cruiser stopped the British steamer Comedian, near Durban, and examined her papers.

Public bodies in England are passing urgent resolutions demanding that the safety of ships should be ensured, and contraband avoided.

Owing to the wide definition of contraband given by Russia, trade with the Far East is practically suspended.

The Russian transport Sogari, which was sunk by the Japanese at the beginning of the war, has been raised, and taken to Nagasaki.

H.M.S. Columbia is on the rocks at Green Bay, Newfoundland, and it is feared that she will become a total wreck.

The drawing up of an Anglo-Tibetan frontier in Lhasa is proceeding slowly but smoothly.

The first session of the twentieth Parliament of New South Wales was opened yesterday by Mr. McCourt was elected Speaker.

Mr. Waddell announced that the Government intended to resign as soon as supply was obtained.

He cited several precedents where Governments had resigned immediately after being badly beaten at general elections.

Mr. Carruthers said he would not question the bona fides of the Government in their belief that the McGowen made an attack upon the Premier.

He maintained that Mr. Waddell had taken an unconstitutional course.

The Government's Speech will be read to Parliament to-day, and will merely refer to the necessity for granting temporary supply.

At a meeting of the Opposition yesterday Mr. Nobbs was reappointed whip.

Mr. Watson, criticising Mr. Reid's manifesto, said that it was not less than an attempt to impose trade unionism.

He also endeavours to show that Mr. Reid's speech was not a speech.

The official report shows that the new discoveries at Jenolan Caves are "surprisingly beautiful," and exceed other caverns in the variety of forms.

The High Court yesterday gave a decision against Dennis Shulman, a telegraph operator, who had been on sick leave without pay, and had claimed £29 for each day.

Canada has declined to allow New Zealanders to participate in the Vancouver mail service.

The Ebbank Ironworkers' Association has unanimously decided to engage an agitation to urge the passage of the Iron Bonus Bill.

The Lord Mayor has reported to the City Council that Mr. Holling, the blind organist, had been seized with an illness which incapacitated him from performing.

The town clerks' strike last year was £27,746, and the expenditure £24,745.

The Royal Hotel, a public hall, and a shop adjoining were burned down at Lowood (Q).

On Monday night.

The Legislative Council in South Australia, under the Local Option Extension Bill, some members of the South Australian Parliament are in favour of the introduction of coloured labour into the Northern Territory.

In arguing against the paternalism of the Adelaide transways in Parliament, the Premier of South Australia quoted the experience of the Sydney tramways.

The mining war at Bega has furnished a report indicating that important mining developments are taking place there.

The gold plate, which had been imperfectly treated by the thief, was recovered hidden in a pocket.

There are prospects of a good wool clip in New South Wales, the quantity carried on the railways so far this month showing an increase.

At the Hay Police Court yesterday a defendant was fined £5, as an assault committed over two and a half years ago.

The Victorian Government has finally decided to make T. A. T. T. the Agent-General, and he granted leave of absence to enable him to return to Australia.

The object is to enable Mr. Taverne to receive charges made against him in Victoria.

The Due d'Achour visited both Houses of the Victorian Parliament yesterday, and was received as a distinguished visitor.

The Legislative Assembly by acclamation carried a motion expressing the pleasure and honour at the visit of his Royal Highness.

There were only a few sales in the Stock and Share Market yesterday, but quotations were firm.

In the Mining Market after further strengthenings, had a fair turnover, otherwise stocks were not materially altered.

What rose in price yesterday to 1d above the record for the season.

In the Import Market one or two seasons lines were buoyant, but otherwise business was dull.

IMPORTED

FASHIONS

FOR THE

SPRING.

READY-MADE COSTUME DEPARTMENT

IN PURCHASE OF OUR CUSTOM of importing a number of articles from the United States of Paris, Vienna, London, and other European centres, are now in receipt of our MIGHTY IMPORTATION that has lasted us for many years.

The Collection embodies Models of such variety as to suit all tastes, and the description would be ineffective in conveying a correct idea of the beauty of these Garments.

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FOR THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS AND FESTIVALS OF THE SPRING SEASON, we can supply BEAUTY AND WEAR UTILITY suitable for each and every occasion.

This will be highly appreciated by Ladies from the United States, and also our Numerous Visitors from other Countries who honour us with their presence on those occasions.

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THE WAR.

ASSAULT ON PORT ARTHUR.

A TREMENDOUS CONFLICT.

APPALING MINE EXPLOSIONS.

THE NEUTRALITY OF SHANGHAI.

A REFERENCE TO PEKING.

RUSSIAN STAY EXTENDED.

THE NOVIK'S BRILLIANT CAREER.

JAPANESE APPRECIATION.

LONDON, Aug. 22. The Japanese will have captured the north-west fort of the western line of outer defences of Port Arthur. The fire of the Russians, however, prevents it from being occupied.

It is reported at Chifu that the Russians have recaptured some of the positions at Port Arthur that had been taken by the Japanese.

Aug. 23.

A witness of the explosion of the mine field over which the Japanese passed on their advance on Port Arthur states that while the Japanese advanced not a single Russian was visible. No guns or rifles were fired.

Suddenly a series of explosions occurred. Each explosion opened a wide gap, shooting the defences to the air. The ground was covered with limbs and with pines of twisted and broken trees. The Japanese were plainly heard.

There are four areas which are mined and unexploded.

RUSSIAN STAY EXTENDED.

LONDON, Aug. 23. The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and other bodies in the United Kingdom have passed urgent resolutions, whose key-note is the ensuring of the safety of shipping and the necessity of a definition of contraband.

The "Standard" states it is high time that the commercial nations of the world agreed upon a definition of contraband.

SUSPENSION OF TRADE.

LONDON, Aug. 23. In consequence of the wide definition given to contraband by Russia, the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and other steamship companies will not accept freight from San Francisco to Japan.

Trade with the Far East is practically suspended.

RUSSIA'S COMMERCE DESTROYED.

CRUISER ON THE CAPE ROUTE.

LONDON, Aug. 23. A Russian cruiser, supposed to be the effect that eight Russian torpedo-boat destroyers have escaped from Port Arthur, and that seven Japanese destroyers are searching for them.

LOSSES ON RUSSIAN WARSHIPS.

LONDON, Aug. 23. The warships which fled from Port Arthur on the 10th instant, and which engaged in battle with the Japanese fleet, sustained the undermentioned losses:

Killed. Wounded.

Officers 5 .. 20
Men 150 .. 300
Total 155 .. 320

ATTACHES AT PORT ARTHUR.

LONDON, Aug. 22. Captain MacCloskey, the United States Attaché at Port Arthur, has arrived at Siberia, and is proceeding to Vladivostok.

The correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" states that a Japanese Attaché took the papers of Captain Hoffmann, the German Naval Attaché, who escaped from Port Arthur, and was conveyed by a Japanese cruiser to Kiao-chau.

Aug. 23. Captain Hoffmann, the German attaché at Port Arthur, was quartered in the battery, 6000 ft. high, at the Tiger's Tail, on the south side of Port Arthur. Captain Hoffmann was not permitted to see any of the fighting.

COMPLICATIONS AT SHANGHAI.

COLLECTIVE FOREIGN PROTECTION DESIRED.

THE CONSULS TOO WARY.

LONDON, Aug. 23. The "Times" reports that the Tao-tai sought to induce the Consuls in the city to take collective action to protect the port and the neutrality of the port, the whole question was referred, at the instance of Sir P. L. Warren, the British Consul-General to the Chinese Government at Peking.

NEWSPAPER CRITICISM.

LONDON, Aug. 23. The "Kreuz Zeitung," of Berlin, though in its views, declares that the demand made by Japan that the Russian war vessels at Shanghai should either disarm or leave the port is perfectly just.

The "Standard" warns that she is not entitled to the neutrality of China to the injury of neutrals, and states that at high time the commercial nations agreed to rules regarding neutrals.

The "Morning Post" affirms that her refusal to obey the orders issued by the Chinese Government at Shanghai—orders which she unhesitatingly obeyed at Kiao-chau—shows that Russia is not prepared to respect the neutrality of China.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

The British fleet is expected off Shanghai to-day.

THE RUSSIAN WAR VESSELS.

LONDON, Aug. 22. The Tao-tai of Shanghai has extended the time of the Russian cruiser Askoil and the torpedo-boat destroyer Grosovof at Shanghai till noon of the 23rd inst.

The cruiser Askoil cannot cross out this week owing to low tides on the bar at the entrance to the branch of the Yangtze-kiang, on which Shanghai stands.

Aug. 23. The repairs to the Russian cruiser Askoil, at Shanghai, have been suspended.

The Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer

which anchored off the Cosmopolitan dock, where the Askoil is, has left Shanghai.

AMERICAN ESCORT OFFERED.

LONDON, Aug. 22. Rear-Admiral Yates Sterling, commanding the Philippine squadron of the United States Asiatic Fleet, has determined that the Japanese shall not interfere with the Russian cruiser Askoil or the torpedo-boat destroyer Grosovof within territorial limits, and has offered to escort them outside the harbour for a distance of three miles.

THE NOVIK'S BRILLIANT CAREER.

JAPANESE APPRECIATION.

LONDON, Aug. 22. The Japanese will do it. There is terrible carnage suggested in the message that they have captured the northernmost fort of the inner defences of Port Arthur; but that they are unable to occupy it. That is readily understood. Guns have been often lost in battle, but the enemy has been unable to capture the fort. The Japanese are in a position that the Russians would be equally untenable for the Japanese, the defenders evidently having retired to a position that commands the area vacated. Very heavy fighting is apparently taking place along the extreme northern defences of the outer fort, and there are signs of great importance.

The "Daily Chronicle" (Liberal) is unable to understand why the convention is disastrous, especially in regard to Morocco. The "Westminster Gazette" (Liberal) says that Lord Rosebery ought to explain what trouble and danger he foresees, and to advise friendliness with France is likely to bring about from the convention.

Lord Rosebery, in the course of a letter written a few days ago regarding a book, "The Truth about Morocco," characterized the convention as "a catastrophe, last as disastrous, and containing a needless concession." The transaction, he considered, was more likely to promote than prevent difficulties with France.

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CIVIC GOVERNMENT.

TOWN CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT.

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.

Mr. T. H. Neasham, the town clerk, presented his second annual report to the City Council last evening. The report is a very voluminous one, covering 100 pages. Considerable time has been taken up in the preparation, and much of the questions affecting civic government have been dealt with at great length.

During the year ended December 31 last 36 council and 227 committee meetings were held. There were eight committees. Aldermanic and Council meetings, on the occurrence of a municipal election, were not held. The municipalisation of ferries, Mr. Neasham stated, was the only committee formed.

With regard to the municipalisation of ferries, Mr. Neasham stated that when the council would possess the authority to control the fares, it would be difficult for the council to have the influence in having the question of the adoption of a bridge over the Hunter at Raymond Terrace brought before the Works Committee.

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1904.

The question of the establishment of town yards in suitable positions for use as stables, and as points for carts, appliances, &c., is now in progress of buildings on a block of land bounded by Belvoir and College streets, which this could only be regarded as an infringement of the rights of the residents.

At the meeting of the council on the 10th instant, Mr. Neasham moved that the council's business to exceed or depart from its legitimate functions. Experience has clearly demonstrated, during the year, that the residents of the city are not the only persons eligible for employment in the corporation service, such a rule

would be highly detrimental to civic interest. It is the corporation's protection in its present form. By its operation the labouring classes are practically deprived from residing in the healthy suburbs, and they are consequently confined to the unhealthy, crowded city.

MUNICIPAL DEPOTS.

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COUNTRY NEWS.

SOUTH COAST.

NOWRA. Tuesday.

Mr. James Gibson, an old resident of Campbelltown, died yesterday.

PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER THE HUNTER.

RAYMOND TERRACE, Tuesday.

At the recent Hunter Bridge Progress Association's meeting last night, a deputation was carried requesting the member for the district to use his influence in having the question of the adoption of a bridge over the Hunter at Raymond Terrace brought before the Works Committee.

AFTER MANY DAYS.

In February, 1892, Charles Bentley assaulted a Government Officer, Captain L. H. T. Tressell, on the Hay Market, and was sentenced by the court to 12 months' imprisonment for breaking and entering into a dwelling house with intent to commit a felony.

The trial of the case was adjourned, and the character of the property within the scope of a municipality. The question of the establishment of free public libraries in the various municipalities in the State, and the libraries possessed by the different councils in the United Kingdom are referred to.

The town clerk strongly maintains the opinion that the library should be vested in the City Council, while the other councils in the various municipalities in the State, should remain under private management.

LADY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The appointment of a thoroughly qualified lady sanitary inspector has been fully justified by results.

During the year the lady sanitary inspector made 3029 special investigations, in relation to premises where there was a risk of infection, and 100 special investigations were conducted by her in connection with deaths from infantile diarrhoea.

RAT CRUSADE.

In connection with the crusade against rats, which took place in 1903, the number of complaints received was 100, and 100 rats were visited, traps used, and poison laid or instructions given by the officers of the council to 23,783 cases, the number of rats and mice caught, 20,000.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

During the past year 784 inspections have been made, and 23,646 rats and mice were destroyed by the officers of the Sanitary Department.

The crusade against rats has been a success, and is usually 50 years.

In passing the year, the Assembly realised the justice of sanctioning borrowing powers to the fullest possible extent, and by this concession the undertaking was in a more advantageous position than that occupied by any bank prior to its creation.

PUBLIC BATHS.

The report stated that the council would have the important matter of providing public baths in the early initial stages, which it is naturally incurred in the construction of a new town.

On the merits, Mr. Neasham is of the opinion that public baths ought certainly to be provided by a corporation having the power to do so.

The "Advertiser" is urging the public to insist on the necessary expenditure and construction of public baths, as are reluctantly agreed to contribute to the cost of the public works.

Of the most important considerations in relation to the supply of electricity for the purposes of light, power, and heat is the natural bestowment on the part of householders to insure the safety of their families and fittings in their houses, especially if they have already gone to the expense of fitting up a room.

The "Advertiser" is urging the public to insist on the necessary expenditure and construction of public baths, as are reluctantly agreed to contribute to the cost of the public works.

Too much emphasis cannot be laid upon the matter of borrowing powers.

In England, the amount of money borrowed by a corporation for the public works, either by loan or even credit, is submitted, Attorney General, to the Public Works Committee.

The town clerk strongly maintains the opinion that the library should be vested in the City Council, while the other councils in the various municipalities in the State, should remain under private management.

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

RECORD OF THIS YEAR'S WORK.

The large hall of the new central building of the Young Women's Christian Association was well filled last night, on the occasion of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the institution. About 1000 members and their friends were represented, and an influential deputation was present.

The Rev. Ronald McIntyre, M.A., B.D., also delivered an address, and spoke of the necessity for such institutions as the Young Women's Christian Association. Such institutions are the very strongest Christian evidence for the reality of the Christian faith.

James Egan, William Egan, and Edward Egan, respectively, of Great Marlow, and were bound over on the own recognisance in £100 each to appear when called upon, the Crown not pressing for a penalty.

MUNICIPAL.

BOWINGTON, Monday.

At a public meeting held here on Saturday night, it was decided to form a progress and visitation. All those who were in the district were represented, and an influential deputation was elected.

RAYMOND TERRACE, Tuesday.

The Railway Commissioners have refused the request of the progress committee to allow the progress to be made by mail train.

LITHGOW, Tuesday.

Several late employees of the Lloyds mine at Lithgow have been granted a day off, and turned, some of them having decided to await the reopening of the mine.

MOUNTAIN, Tuesday.

Two ten-hour shifts passed through by road to the mine this morning for back loading.

MURWILLUMBAH, Tuesday.

Meers, Skinner Brothers and Newland, Bonyoony, locally known as "the Bonyoony," the largest of the river fleet.

It is the largest of their river fleet.

TAMWORTH, Tuesday.

The annual meeting of members of the Tamworth Permanent Mutual Benefit Building and Investment Society had been held.

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WINDSOR, Tuesday.

Mr. Lewis Brown, who had received an appointment to the Royal Mint, London, was granted a leave of absence by his employer.

He had called for a list of the premises where specific work had not been completed in order to communicate with the responsible Government departments, urging them to make the necessary repairs and alterations.

There were 2000 claims, and the various defects were such as liable to be injurious to health.

HIRE OF THE TOWN HALL.

The lettings of the Town Hall numbered in 1891 and 1903 £150 for the preceding year.

The total amount received in 1903 was £100, and the expenditure £100.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

VICTOR PIANOS AT PALING'S.

VICTOR PIANOS are made specially to order. They are the best value money can buy at the price asked for them, and are fully guaranteed by us.

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26 GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY.

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM
THE RIGHT HON. G. H. REID, K.C., M.H.R.,
THE WHOLE OF HIS
MAGNIFICENT AND COSTLY
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STERLING SILVER,
HORSES, VEHICLES, AND EFFECTS GENERALLY,
WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION AT

MOUNT ROYAL,
ALBERT-ROAD, STRATHFIELD,
ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30 AND 31, 1904,
BY
HARDIE AND GORMAN.

CATALOGUES READY TO-DAY.

THIS DAY,
WEDNESDAY, 24th AUGUST, 1904
AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

POSITIVE UNRESERVED SALE
BY AUCTION,

AT THE MARY, 24 GEORGE-STREET.

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MORTGAGEES
FOR ABSOLUTE UNRESERVED SALE.

CASES MANILA CIGARS, L.B.

20 CASES CROWN WINE WINE

20 CASES HOGH BITTERS

20 CASES HERR'S TURCOO

20 CASES CADDY CAMERON'S DITTO

20 CASES WHITING'S PAINT, each 14lb.

